Trace Evidence

Trace Evidence

- Trace materials may be exchanged between occupant and aircraft components
  - Blood and tissue
  - Paint, glass

Identifying trace evidence

- Crew spaces
  - Seat, restraints, controls, panel
- Flight surface edges
- Canopy
- “witness marks”

Handling trace evidence

- Concerns
  - Protect
    - Environment, scavengers, insects, recovery crews
  - Ensure
    - Documentation, accountability, safety
- Collect early, document well, coordinate with ME/Coroner/OAFME and on-site authorities

Handling trace evidence

- At Scene
  - Document and photograph in situ
  - Swab fluids, place in clean container, transport on ice—clearly label with site, time/date
- At autopsy
  - Place in appropriate container
  - Label as biohazard
  - Forward for analysis